

other than the majority leader, successfully offers a motion to proceed to the Yucca Mountain resolution, it will break with Senate tradition, undermine the goal of the majority leader, and allow other Senators to control the floor. I hope the Members of this body will think before they move forward on the resolution.

In closing, I thank the majority leader. He is keeping his word that he gave to the people of the State of Nevada, and the people of the State of Nevada say thank you to the majority leader.

RECOGNIZING MRS. KATHY IRELAND

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, since age 17 Mrs. Kathy Ireland has been blessed to have assembled an illustrious career as an actress, supermodel, and vocalist. Her numerous talents have afforded her the opportunity to be regularly featured on the covers of such prestigious magazines as *Cosmopolitan*, *People*, *Glamour*, *McCalls*, and *Redbook*. Likewise, her inherent capabilities have provided her with the good fortune to appear as a special guest on nationally renowned television programs such as *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *The Today Show*, *Oprah*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and *Access Hollywood*. This abundance of accolades has established Mrs. Ireland as a public figure of world-wide fame and recognition.

My purpose here today is not to recognize Mrs. Ireland for her extreme number of personal achievements, impressive as they are, but rather to expand on the manner in which she uses the fame and recognition gained from such accomplishments as a medium by which to make charitable contributions to our local and national communities. As I will bring to your attention in the next few minutes, Mrs. Ireland's personal accomplishments pale in comparison to the number of ways in which she gives back to our communities, both local and Nation wide.

I was made aware of Mrs. Ireland's benevolent character just recently, as it was brought to my attention that she was responsible for sending an eighteen wheeler filled with enough food to feed 1600 needy families for two weeks to Monroe County in my home State of Mississippi. This is the second consecutive year Mrs. Ireland has sent the Holiday Food Truck to aid Mississippians in need. In 2000, the truck was dispersed to the northwest region of Mississippi, also known as the Mississippi Delta. A philanthropic concert entitled "Stars Over Mississippi" is held biannually for the purpose of raising funds to be allocated towards increasing the educational opportunities available to the children of Mississippi. Mrs. Ireland has further benefitted my State by selflessly devoting her time to perform in many of these concerts. Mrs. Ireland has also asserted herself as a benevolent benefactress of the state of Mississippi, by donating many

thousands of dollars worth of children's furniture, on behalf of Mary and Sam Haskell, to Sela Ward's Hope Village Orphanage located in Meridian, MS.

It should be duly noted that Mrs. Ireland's generosity, patronage, and charity is not limited to benefitting communities located in my home State of Mississippi. Examples of Mrs. Ireland's commitment to community service on a national scale include currently serving as Ambassador of both Women's Health Issues and the National Women's Cancer Research Alliance on behalf of the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Mrs. Ireland also holds the title of National Chair of Family Services and Parenting for the Athletes and Entertainers For Kids non-profit organization. As chairperson she personally sees to it that AEFK's mission of empowering our youth through mentoring partnerships and positive experiences is achieved. Mrs. Ireland also joins with an organization called Feed The Children each holiday season, in supervising the dissemination of over 170,000 pounds of clothing, food, and toys to needy children nationwide. Mrs. Ireland is a long-standing supporter of the Special Olympics, and has played an integral role in the establishment and continued development and success of the Dream Foundation, which provides terminally ill adults with the resources necessary to fulfill a special dream or be granted a final wish.

Despite her responsibilities associated with being a loving wife, devoted mother of two, Sunday school teacher, clothes designer, supermodel, actress, and vocalist, Mrs. Ireland expresses and executes an unequivocal desire to champion the causes of others. I take great personal pride and gain tremendous fulfillment in recognizing Mrs. Kathy Ireland before you on the Senate floor this day, and encourage all Americans possessing the will, desire, and resources to do so, to live according to her example.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN NALLEY

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, today I rise to salute Stephen Matthew Nalley from Starkville, MS, for his outstanding achievement in this year's national spelling bee. Stephen finished in second place after spelling words such as "altricial," "muliebral" and "sericeous." He endured ten rounds, defeating 248 other spellers between the ages of 9 through 15.

The Louisville Courier-Journal started the national spelling bee in 1925 with only 9 contestants. Scripps Howard News Service assumed sponsorship in 1941. This year Steven and 249 other participants helped celebrate the 75th Annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee held here in Washington, D.C.

Steven was born with a particular type of autism that impairs social interaction and contributes to repetitive behavior patterns. Fortunately, he has been able to work with his disability and use it to his advantage.

Quoting his mother, Barbara Nalley, "He's mildly autistic, but he's channeled that into his spelling."

Steven's accomplishment serves as a reminder to us all that we can accomplish astonishing things when we are willing to put in great time and effort for them. Steven's approach to adversity is to not back down, but rather to fight until he has conquered all obstacles and achieved his objective. I find this attribute of his remarkably inspiring.

Not only am I highly impressed with Steven's workmanship as an outstanding speller, but he also is a straight A student and a member of his school's honor society. He exemplifies a hard working young man and is a great asset for Mississippi.

I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Steven on his tremendous accomplishment and wishing him the best in all of his future endeavors. Congratulations, Steven.

FLAG DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as we approach Flag Day tomorrow, I thought it worthwhile to reflect on the innate patriotism of so many Americans. Justice Brennan wrote, "We can imagine no more appropriate response to burning a flag than waving one's own." That is exactly how the American people respond.

Immediately following September 11, Americans all around the country began to fly flags outside their homes and businesses, to wear flag pins on their lapels, and to place flag stickers on their automobiles. This surge in patriotism over the past 9 months has made American flags such a hot commodity that several major flag manufacturers cannot keep flags stocked on store shelves. Within one week of the attacks, demand for American flags was 20 times higher than is typical for that time of year, according to the National Flag Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During that same week, Wal-Mart sold 450,000 flags. Within days of the bombing, K-mart sold 200,000 flags.

This expression of national pride was spontaneous, and consisted of individual Americans taking conscious acts of patriotism. No one in the government decreed that Americans must purchase and fly flags. There was no official direction stating that Americans should wear clothing and accessories with flag designs, but these have been wildly popular as well.

Supporters of S.J. Res. 7, a constitutional amendment to prohibit flag desecration, believe that Americans need a lesson in how to respect the flag. I disagree, and I believe that the American people have proven these Senators wrong.

At the height of World War II, in the case of *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, Justice Jackson wrote, "To believe that patriotism will not flourish if patriotic ceremonies are

voluntary and spontaneous instead of a compulsory routine is to make an unflattering estimate of the appeal of our institutions to free minds." Patriotism is flourishing in ways that no one could have predicted. Americans are rallying around the flag in a voluntary show of strength that demonstrates America's commitment to freedom and liberty.

Respect cannot be coerced or compelled. It can only be given voluntarily. Some may find it more comfortable to silence dissenting voices, but coerced silence can only create resentment, disrespect, and disunity. You don't stamp out a bad idea by repressing it; you stamp it out with a better idea.

My better idea is to fly the flag, not because the law tells me to; not because there is something that says this is what I have to do to show respect; I do it because, as an American, I want to. That is why the American flag has always flown at the Leahy home. The extraordinary display of patriotism we have witnessed over the past 9 months is evidence that the American public agrees.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred December 6, 2000 in Placer County, CA. A 37-year-old African American woman was attacked at a roadside rest stop. The perpetrators, two men, were hiding in a restroom stall when they attacked, bound and gagged the victim with duct tape, sexually assaulted her, and wrote racial slurs all over her body. Police investigated the assault as a hate crime.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN BURMA?

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, leave it to the repressive generals in Rangoon to miss an opportunity to secure peace and reconciliation in Burma. I am referring to today's BBC article entitled "Burma Renews Suu Kyi Isolation."

I want to be very clear to the repressive State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the Administration, and the international community—particularly Japan—that the level of engagement with the hard liners in Ran-

goon should be conditioned on concrete, political progress following Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release. Intimidating and punishing any Burmese who meets with democracy leader Suu Kyi—as has already occurred—or continuing to restrict her movements is wholly unacceptable and must not be tolerated.

The State Department made a grave mistake in allowing a Burmese colonel to visit Washington last month. The regime exploited this mistake when it touted in a press statement: "This was our first conversation at this level with American authorities since 1988." We should not allow an illegal military junta to spin our intentions—or our policy.

It is my expectation that the junta will allow Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy to conclude its assessment of Burma's humanitarian needs before moving forward on any new programs or initiatives. Restricting Suu Kyi's access to U.N. offices in Rangoon serves no logical purpose.

Those of us who have long championed freedom and democracy for the people of Burma must be vigilant in the days, weeks, and months ahead. It is premature for the Washington—or any other foreign capital—to be considering "rewards" for the SPDC: 1,500 political prisoners have yet to be released; forced labor continues unabated; ethnic nationalities suffer horrific human rights abuses; and, dialogue between the NLD and the regime has not resumed.

The State Department would be wise to withhold requests to Congress for expanding narcotics cooperation with the Burmese—including the use of training facilities in Thailand—lest they be guilty of premature jubilation in Burma.

As I wrote to President Bush last month, the SPDC should be judged not by what they say, but rather by what they do. It does not look like the tiger in Burma has changed its stripes.

THE DEATH OF S.SGT. ANISSA A. SHERO IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, for many generations, the people of West Virginia have distinguished themselves by their willingness to serve their country in the armed forces. West Virginians understand the cost of freedom and have always been willing to pay it when called. Today, we are reminded again just how great that cost can be, as we mourn the loss of Air Force Staff Sgt. Anissa A. Shero, of Grafton, WV, who died in a tragic airplane crash near the town of Gardez, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Shero was a volunteer, who chose to serve her country in the face of grave danger. When terrorists struck, she left behind the mountains of West Virginia for the mountains of Afghanistan, to risk her life so that we might live ours in freedom and safety. She was part of an extraordinarily suc-

cessful effort to crush the Taliban, disrupt and demoralize al-Qaida, and free the people of Afghanistan from two decades of war and despotism. Men and women in both nations are safer now because of her work, and all of us who value freedom owe Sgt. Shero a profound debt of gratitude and honor. I know that the thoughts and prayers of many people are, like mine, with her family and her friends tonight.

Like the two service members who died with her, and the 37 others killed in Afghanistan during this war, including West Virginian Sgt. Gene Vance, Jr., Sgt. Shero bravely did her duty as an American. Now, let us pledge to do ours in her honor. Let us remember always, including on the floor of this Senate Chamber, that wars are about people, and freedom, and lives. Let us make certain that our armed forces have the tools they need to meet any foe, any where, any time. And let us treasure the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and give thanks for the service members who fight to protect them.

Sgt. Shero represented the best of West Virginia and the best of America. She was strong, courageous, and dedicated. She will forever serve as a role model for West Virginians, men and women alike, who loved their country and who, like her, know our ideals are worth fighting for.

THE ABM TREATY

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to acknowledge the fact that today, 6 months after President Bush announced the U.S. intention to withdraw from the ABM Treaty, the Treaty lapses. The 30-year old treaty, which most consider to be the cornerstone of arms control, now no longer exists.

The significance of today has gone largely unnoticed. Press coverage has been minimal so most American will likely not realize what happens today. The objections of Russia and China to the withdrawal have been muted. Our European allies have reluctantly accepted the withdrawal. Some would say that this lack of fanfare proves that the ABM Treaty was a relic of the cold war and needed to be renounced. I would argue that while today's withdrawal seems insignificant at this moment, it has profound implications for the future.

When President Bush announced his intention to withdraw from the treaty, he stated: "I have concluded the ABM Treaty hinders our government's ability to develop ways to protect our people from future terrorist or rogue-state missile attacks." I would argue that this statement is incorrect. First, the greatest threat from terrorists is not from a long range missile but from methods we have witnessed and watched for since September 11 conventional transportation like planes and cargo ships, used as weapons.

Secondly, any testing of missile defenses that could be planned for the